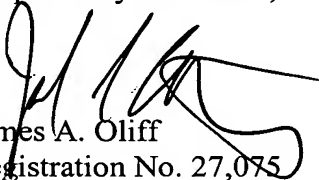


REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 3-4, 7-8, 10-15, 19, and 21-28 are amended and claims 29-30 are added.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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Joel S. Armstrong
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JAO:JSA/amo

Attachment:
Abstract

Date: July 13, 2004

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ABSTRACT

DOCUMENT HANDLING

A document handling machine comprises a non-secure or low security housing (10) containing a document transport (12) for conveying documents in one or both directions between a document store (60) and an opening (17). A document degradation system (68) is responsive to an unauthorised activity, such as an attempt to gain access to the interior of the machine, to degrade documents in the machine.